



# CPEC

# News Release

California Postsecondary Education Commission  
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## **State higher education agency releases enrollment projections for California's independent universities**

*Independent universities could add nearly as many students as UC over the next 10 years*

SACRAMENTO — September 21, 2010 — Enrollment demand at the state's 76 independent colleges and universities is projected to increase by 21,000 over the next decade. About 130,000 undergraduate students were enrolled at independent universities in 2008, the most current year for which data is available. The increase in enrollment at independent universities is about the same as what is projected for the 10-campus University of California system.

These projections will be discussed at the quarterly meeting of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), Tuesday, Sept. 28, in Sacramento.

Earlier this year CPEC released projections for undergraduate demand at the publicly funded systems: University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges. If California is to restore access to higher education at the level it was before the recession, UC and CSU will be asked to serve 74,000 more students in 2019 than in 2008. To accommodate growth at UC and CSU, the state would need to fund \$50 million in each of the next 10 years.

"It is crucial that the independent sector be a partner in higher education long-range planning. Issues needing immediate attention are access, capacity to take more students, and student choice. Having valid demand projections is a huge step," says Stacy Wilson, lead CPEC researcher.

Many of California's independent institutions could increase enrollments, according to the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU). This could take some pressure off UC and CSU. Other studies show that enrollments might need to increase even more than the projected amounts in order to produce enough graduates to meet workforce needs.

“Independent universities make an important contribution in California. The state will require more graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce,” says Karen Humphrey, CPEC Executive Director. “Independent universities can offer more flexibility with admissions and financial aid, and they’re an attractive choice for people from a wide variety of backgrounds.”

#### ***Panel discussion***

At CPEC’s Sept. 28 meeting, heads of two independent universities and the president of AICCU will speak about the opportunities for meeting enrollment demand and expanding capacity. Participants are Jonathan Brown of AICCU, Sharon D. Herzberger of Whittier College, and Stephen C. Morgan of University of La Verne.

A two-page summary of the report is at [www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda1009/item\\_03a.pdf](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda1009/item_03a.pdf). The full report, *Ready for Learning: The Contribution of California’s Independent Colleges and Universities in Meeting Undergraduate Demand*, is at [www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda1009/item\\_03.pdf](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda1009/item_03.pdf).

#### **Other meeting highlights**

##### ***Presentations***

Assemblymember Marty Block, new chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, will discuss his priorities for higher education and his perspectives on the update of the California Master Plan for Higher Education.

Patrick Ainsworth, director of the Secondary, Career and Adult Learning Division at the California Department of Education, will discuss recent legislation and his department’s work on K-12 reform and preparing students for careers and college.

##### ***Facilities review***

Commissioners will vote on a staff recommendation to approve a proposal from the Solano Community College District to convert its educational center in Vallejo into an off-campus center. If approved, the district would be eligible for state funding for capital improvements.

Projections indicate that enrollment at the center will grow 33 percent between 2010–11 and 2015–16, serving the equivalent of about 2,500 full-time students in Benicia, Vallejo and Fairfield.

#### **Higher education enrollment projections**

	Independent universities	University of California	California State University
2008 enrollment	129,600	172,800	362,200
2019 projection	150,200	193,000	416,100
Increase	20,600 15.9%	20,200 11.7%	53,900 14.9%

#### **Independent colleges and universities**

California’s independent colleges and universities are all non-profit foundations accredited by WASC, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Nearly all of these are members of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU). The projections do not include enrollments at for-profit universities and institutions that are not accredited by WASC.

## Meeting Highlights

A complete meeting agenda and staff reports are at [www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd1009.asp](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd1009.asp).

### Tuesday, September 28

10:45 a.m. to noon

CPEC staff report. *Ready for Learning: The Contribution of California's Independent Sector in Meeting Undergraduate Demand*

Assessing the capacity of the independent colleges and universities and the extent to which they can grow to accommodate the growth in enrollment demand.

[www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda1009/item\\_03.pdf](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda1009/item_03.pdf)  
(1.2 MB)

Panel discussion. *Jonathan Brown, president of Association of California Independent Colleges and Universities; Sharon D. Herzberger, president of Whittier College; Stephen C. Morgan, president of University of La Verne*

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Presentation. *Director of the California Department of Education Secondary, Career and Adult Learning Division, Patrick Ainsworth*

Developments in K-12 education reform, including the department's report, *Multiple Pathways to Student Success*, and AB 2648 for expanding career technical education.

3 to 4 p.m.

Presentation. *Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, Marty Block*

Perspectives on the state's postsecondary education systems and the continuing review of the Master Plan.

### Wednesday, September 29

9:15 to 9:30 a.m.

CPEC staff report. *Update on CPEC's Improving Teacher Quality Program*

\$9 million in grants to help teachers from high-need school districts, for the purpose of narrowing the achievement gap.

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*The California Postsecondary Education Commission was established in 1974 as the state's higher education coordinating agency. CPEC conducts research and advises the Governor, legislators, and other agencies on higher education issues. CPEC maintains the state's most comprehensive higher education database.*